

ABSTRACT

The cases of fall from height are now becoming more common due to multistoreyed culture in urban population. In this study of fatal cases of fall from heights majority of falls are of males, in age group 21-50 years, from terrace and balcony due to accidental fall and lack of safety measures. Most of the deaths are accidental and consumption of alcohol is a major predisposing factor. Deaths due to fall from height form an important area of study because of the diversity in injuries sustained, complexity of the patterns involved and various mechanisms associated there with. The medico-legal autopsy aims at deciding whether the death was attributed purely to the height and also helps in ruling out the various contributing factors like drugs, alcohol and any co-existing natural disease. The determination of actual or probable anatomical site of primary impact may be useful in reconstruction of the events, which led to fatal falls. Presence of multiple blunt force injuries makes it hard to differentiate between injuries induced by the actual fall and those that have inflicted before the fall and often disagreement predominates regarding the height at which death results. Thus a careful study of total injury pattern is of vital importance in every case. In the difficult scenario of assessing the manner of death, meticulous autopsy along with visit to the scene of occurrence which includes observation of ground nature and presence of any intervening object is of extreme help.

Key words: Fall from Height, Site of Impact and Pattern of Injuries, Head Injuries